

In The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

one or more hosts configured to implement:

a production database; and

a refresh mechanism configured to:

generate a storage checkpoint of file system data of the production database;

generate a database clone, wherein data of the database clone comprises data from the storage checkpoint;

load new data to the database clone, wherein said load updates the storage checkpoint, wherein the new data is new with respect to the production database, and wherein the production database is available for access by users during said load; and

after said load, switch from previous file system data of the production database to the storage checkpoint to be the file system data for the production database.

2. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the refresh mechanism is further configured to perform post-processing on the database clone prior to said switch.

3. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the refresh mechanism is further configured to:

stop the production database prior to said switch; and

start the production database after said switch.

4. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the production database is a data warehouse.

5. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the generated database clone includes references to data in the production database.

6. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the refresh mechanism is configured to perform said loading of new data to the database clone on a different host machine than a host machine hosting the production database.

7. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the refresh mechanism is configured to perform said loading of new data to the database clone on a host machine hosting the production database.

8. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

means for generating a storage checkpoint of file system data of a production database;

means for generating a database clone of a production database, wherein data of the database clone comprises data from the storage checkpoint;

means for loading new data to the database clone, wherein said loading updates the storage checkpoint, wherein the new data is new with respect to the production database, and wherein the production database is available for access by users during said loading; and

means for switching from previous file system data of the production database to the storage checkpoint to be the file system data for the production database, wherein said switching is performed after said loading.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for refreshing a production database, comprising:

generating a storage checkpoint of file system data of the production database;

generating a database clone of a production database, wherein data of the database clone comprises the storage checkpoint;

loading new data to the database clone, wherein said loading updates the storage checkpoint, wherein the new data is new with respect to the production database, and wherein the production database is available for access by users during said loading; and

after said loading, switching from previous file system data of the production database to the storage checkpoint to be the file system data for the production database.

10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising performing post-processing on the database clone prior to said switching.

11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

stopping the production database prior to said switching; and

starting the production database after said switching.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the production database is a data warehouse.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the generated database clone includes references to data in the production database.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein said loading new data to the database clone is performed on a different host machine than a host machine hosting the production database.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-accessible storage medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are configured to implement:

generating a storage checkpoint of file system data of the production database;

generating a database clone of a production database, wherein data of the database clone comprises the storage checkpoint;

loading new data to the database clone, wherein said loading updates the storage checkpoint, wherein the new data is new with respect to the production database, and wherein the production database is available for access by users during said loading; and

after said loading, switching from previous file system data of the production database to the storage checkpoint to be the file system data for the production database.

16. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the program instructions are further configured to implement performing post-processing on the database clone prior to said switching.

17. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the program instructions are further configured to implement:

stopping the production database prior to said switching; and

starting the production database after said switching.

18. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the production database is a data warehouse.

19. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the generated database clone includes references to data in the production database.

20. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said loading new data to the database clone is performed on a different host machine than a host machine hosting the production database.